



# **Childhelp Resolution Press Conference**

Friday, August 6, 2010

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Good morning!

I am honored to be able to help mark this rare moment -- when every single governor in the United States -- all 50 of us -- put aside whatever political differences we might have -- whatever disagreements we might have -- and signed a Childhelp resolution to unite against child abuse.

We are here this morning to celebrate that milestone. It was a wonderful privilege for me to help collect these signatures -- with all Governors pledging to do everything in our power to fight and bring an end to child abuse in America.

Special thanks to Val Halamandaris, a Childhelp National Board member and President of the National Association of Homecare and Hospice -- who was instrumental in starting the signature process last year in Mississippi at the National Governors Association meeting.

And, I am pleased to be celebrate this resolution with my friends Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson -- the founders of Arizona-based Childhelp.

Sara and Yvonne have been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize -- FIVE TIMES -- and I am honored to have added my support for their nomination with a letter of endorsement.

Childhelp has been fighting to prevent child abuse or provide care for those who have been abused for the past 50 years. Public safety has always been one of my top priorities -- and this includes safety for children -- which comes from nourishing an environment that strengthens families.

It is our special duty to ensure that America's children -- Arizona's children -- are protected from harm and maltreatment.

This requires neighborhoods and communities to be alert to problems – and, it requires speaking out against child abuse and neglect – wherever we see it – homes, schools, churches – wherever we see it, or know of it.

Before Sara and Yvonne and I unveil the resolution, let me read what all the Governors signed their names to:

Whereas, children are America's most precious asset and deserve our most committed support and protection; and whereas, the issue of child abuse and neglect is a serious and growing problem in America;

and whereas, every 10 seconds a child is abused in America and whereas, every day five children die as the result of child abuse in America; and whereas, every year millions of children are abused in America; and whereas, due to the current economic downturn child abuse has been increasing in incidences and in severity in America. Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we, the Governors of the fifty United States of America and affiliated Territories, hereby pledge to do everything in our power to fight and bring an end to child abuse in America.